REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant cancels claims 1-46 in this application since these depend on base claims which are too broad.

Applicant has added new claims 47- which depend on a significantly narrower base claim as will be explained below.

Applicant will now respond to Examiner's objections on page 2 of his action of 1/13/2004. Examiners text is shown in quotes. Figure 1 of Taylor is shown in simplified form in the figure below. All references to this figure apply to the patent of Taylor.

"Claims 1,2,37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Taylor.

Taylor discloses a locomotion device comprising a harness (11) leg braces 10 and 12 extending from the harness to the ground, a hip pivot (10a), brace feet (7) and foot couplings (6).

In regard to claim 2 note elements 4, 9, 20 and 21.

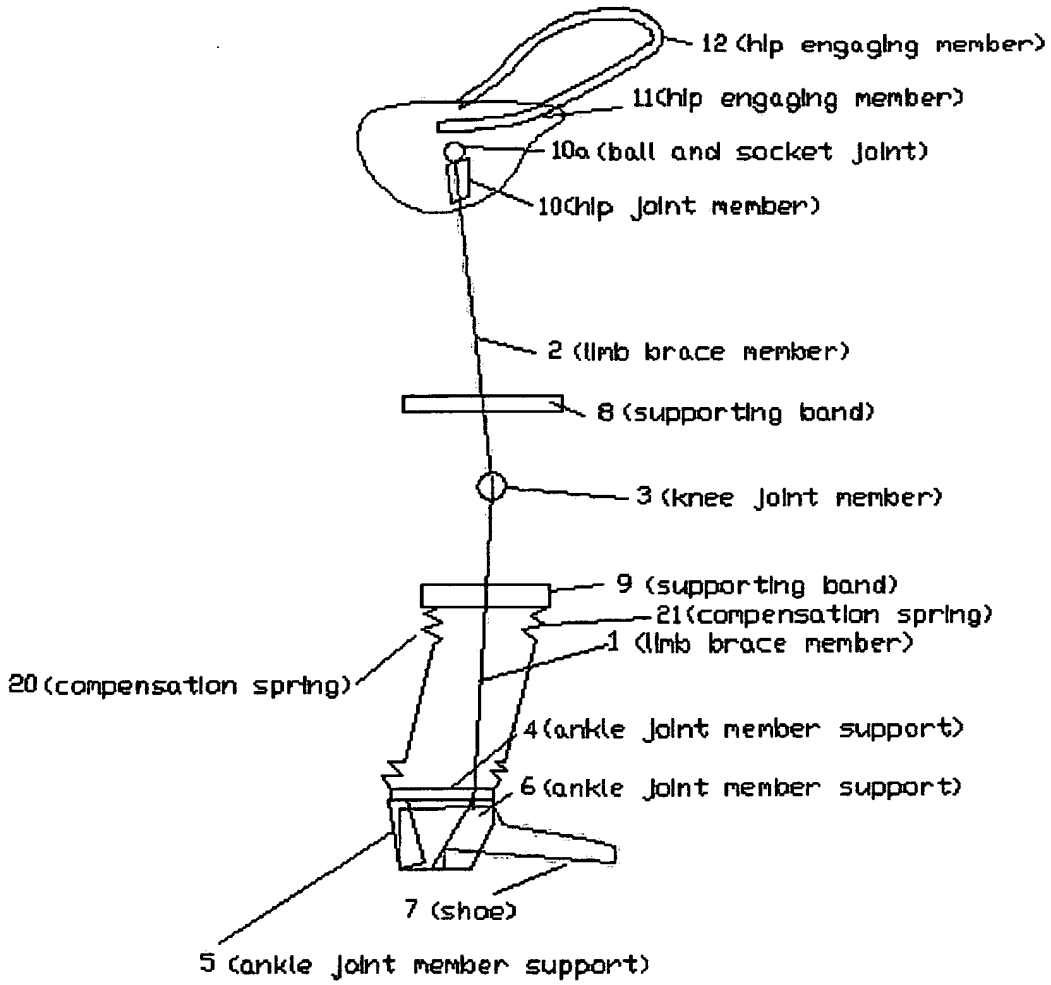
In regard to claims 37 Taylor discloses a tightening mechanism in the form of a strap and buckle which in combination change the circumferential length lf the harness and therefore the gripping force of the harness.

The limitations of claim 38 are met by the tightening mechanism of Taylor as mention in the rejection of claim 37 above which is intrically and inherently more adjustable."

The amended base independent claim 47 discloses an energy-efficient running brace which has the following elements which are not taught or claimed by the referenced patent of Taylor

* a load tightener harness (see the discussion of Fig.s 19-23) and

* a means for asymmetric travel of said brace, (see the discussion in the last paragraph before the discussion of Fig. 2 and the discussion of Fig. 5).



* The meaning of load-tightening, as defined and explained the discussion of Figures 19-23 is distinct from the harnesses, cuffs, and belts in the prior art.. A conventional belt, cuff, or harness is tightened before use (loading) by a user who pulls it tight to a particular, constant circumference value. Applicant's "load" is the force transmitted via the harness between the dynamic load of the runner and the running brace. Prior art harnesses do not tighten under this load.

* The meaning of Applicant's load-tightening is entirely distinct and novel. The dynamic load of the harness on the brace actually causes the circumference of Applicant's cuff to decrease -- only during stance, after which this circumference relaxes to its pre-load value.

Applicant feels comfortable that the new base claim is novel because it includes a number of design features which Applicant has learned, after many years of research on running braces, to be essential for a prototype to actually work.

In view of the foregoing, all of the new claims in this case are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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